

Substance Abuse Services Division
ASAIS Conference Call
April 14, 2006

Minutes

- On April 14, 2006, the sixth Substance Abuse Services Division's Alabama Substance Abuse Information System (ASAIS) conference call was held. The call began at 10 am and hosted approximately thirty provider organizations, most with multiple staff participating.
- Agenda Item # 1 - Introductions: Mr. Vilamaa, the Project Director for ASAIS welcomed and thanked the providers for joining the 6th ASAIS conference call. All updated information is now being posted on the Department's webpage. Mr. Vilamaa asked providers to introduce themselves. The following organizations were identified. We apologize if any were omitted.

Chemical Addictions Program
West Alabama MHC
Birmingham Fellowship House
Chilton Shelby Mental Health Center
Mobile Mental Health Center
South Central AL MHC
Mountain Lakes Behavioral Healthcare
Anniston Fellowship House
Riverbend Mental Health Center
Calhoun Cleburne MHC
Northwest Alabama MHC
The Bridge
Lighthouse Counseling Center
UAB
East Central MHC
Wiregrass MHC
Becky Novack
Lori Hamlin
Spectra Care
MHC of Madison Co.
MHC of North Central AL
Drug Free
UAB Methadone
South West Alabama MHC

- Staff participation included:

Ms. Sarah Harkless
Mr. Kris Vilamaa

Ms. Tawanda Ambers
Ms. NaTasha Wyman
Mr. Brandon Folks
Ms. Beverly Johnson
Dr. Barbara Jackson

➤ Agenda Item # 2 – ASAIS Update:

- a. Provider Site visits: Ms. Becky Novack has been out conducting visits the week of April 10 and will also be out conducting visits the week of April 24. She has completed 13 visits out of 31 providers. Another 10 are scheduled for the week of April 24 for a total of 23 completed visits. There are eight remaining to be scheduled in the immediate Montgomery area and will be done in approximately four weeks, hopefully by the first or second week in May. Ms. Becky Novak reported that most have been very interactive and enthusiastic about the finality the system will offer. She is still submitting questions brought up at site visits and hopes to have them to Mr. Vilamaa by April 17.
- b. Forms Development: Mr. Vilamaa reported the assessment and discharge forms are still being developed but the two screening forms were completed on April 13. They have been completed in draft form for comments and questions.
- c. Direction: Work began on identifying pilot sites but final list is not yet developed. It is scheduled to be completed by May 1. Also in progress is the development of policies and procedures in-house and for providers. This will provide information on how to interact with the system and how things will work from a procedural aspect. Harmony is developing and configuring the software.

➤ Agenda Item # 3 – Timelines:

The timelines have not changed. The initial delivery of the web interface is scheduled for June 2006 and claims processing in July 2006, which will involve pilot sites. The go live date is still scheduled for October 1, 2006.

➤ Agenda Item # 4 – Questions:

Questions from the provider participants:

- 1) In regards to the adolescent screening, is it inappropriate to conclude that one "yes" answer on the screening indicates the way it is raised on the form is not a problem, and therefore, no action is suggested?

It is not our intention to say that if there is one "yes" answer, the adolescent should be escorted out of the door. Your clinical judgment is most important and should

be the benchmark in terms of what happens to the client. The language is going to be modified to make the wording less restrictive.

- 2) Is it true that we may not get pre-authorization if there is only one "yes" answer out of the six questions asked?

No. You will not be penalized or not be given a client identification number just because someone answered yes.

- 3) Can we use collateral or third party information in answering these questions?

Yes.

- 4) Are footnotes necessary with the questions?

Yes. The screening questions that we are using are not developed by us so we have to cite the source of the questions. They are validated screening tools.

- 5) Is it necessary to gather race and ethnicity information at the initial screening?

Our intent is to collect this information as early as possible, but that is something that we can look into.

- 6) What is the process in selecting a pilot site?

We asked for volunteers and there are 10 sites that have volunteered. We are looking at criteria and a variety of factors to provide the best opportunity to test the system. Nothing has yet been finalized.

Agenda Item # 5 Announcements:

Ms. Harkless reported she has not yet received all of the provider surveys and they are due on April 14th. She also informed callers that the ISATS number is a number assigned when a facility is listed in the national inventory of substance abuse treatment facilities that is maintained from SAMHSA. Ms. Harkless further stated that if a program receives the national survey of substance abuse treatment services from SAMSA each year, the ISAT number should be on there. Callers were instructed to send their surveys with or without the ISATS number, in the event that it was misplaced or if one was not yet obtained. Ms. Harkless will be calling next week to set up visits in this office to talk about program descriptions and where we go from now regarding the new service array we're proposing for this division.

As a result of this survey, meetings will be set up with representatives that the Executive Directors appoint. In order to save time it is being asked that the designee come into our offices to save time and move the process

The next conference call is scheduled for Friday, April 28 at 10 am. To participate please dial 1-888-776-3766. You will be prompted for a meeting room number, which is ***2626217***. The star key (*) must be entered before and after entry of the numbers. Please make your call at least five (5) minutes before the start of each meeting.